5:13 p.m.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR HOLLAND (to Senator Holland)

LBJ Senator?

SH Hello?

LBJ Spessard? Lyndon Johnson

SH Well, hello, Mr. President. How are you?

LBJ Fine. My friend...I'm sorry to interrupt you but earlier in the days there were some suggestions from your state about naming Cape Canaveral...Cape Kennedy and...

SH I haven't caught it..I'm here at the airport..there's quite a lot of noise.

LBJ I say, earlier in the day, there were some suggestions that came in suggested that Cape Canaveral be named Cape Kennedy...we checked it with the appropriate people in the Federal Government and that could be done. ...there's a town called Cape Canaveral and a Port Canaveral ...they tell us. We would hope that if we changed the Cape's name to Cape Kennedy...so that the launchings that took place in the future would come from Cape Kennedy...perhaps they would go along on the name of the town and the Port. In any event, I wanted to talk to you about it and I called you and you...they told me you were on the way to the airport and I thought I ought to reach you before you left town. We are planning to issue the order on Cape Canaveral..making it Cape Kennedy..probably before we fold up for Thanksgiving.

SH Well, now..Lyndon. It sounds like a mighty good suggestion. That name, however, goes clear back to historic times. I think it comes from the Spanish..I'm not sure..but the oldest maps will show it. There might be some feeling there...not that I know of...and certainly not so far as I'm concerned..but it is an ancient name and an ancient landmark. Now, simply for your own information and for your own protection in the matter, what study has been made of the historic background.

LBJ None...none..

SH Well, I'll tell you. I have absolutely no objection myself and I think there may be great merit to it..I do think it would be wise to study it because I do remember that my oldest map..way back to Spanish times,, shows that name.,and I do remember that it is a historic name in many of the old books...might or might not be well worthwhile to have it studied unless there is need for immediate action.

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SH Contd My suggestion would be that that be done..and I think it would allow the local people to feel like they've had a part in it...the County Commissioner..of Titusville..Titusville is the county seat..would be the appropriate board there..the Governor and his people at Tallahasee ...I know would appreciate being consulted about it..and the State historian...would be answerable to the Governor immediately..for any study of the matter that you want to have made. But it is...my only cautionary remark here is that it dates way back to the first earliest map in Florida. I can't tell you where the name comes from..but my information has been that it was Spanish.

LBJ Fine. Well I'll check it..I'll tell these folks to check into it and see if I can make a check with the Governor too before we take any action.

SH I thought your message today was very fine..and I especially thought that your recognition of the Legislative Branch ..the words you used about it ...was splendid and I don't see how you could have done a better job.. I've already made that comment to the Press and I want to tell you personally to that effect.

LBJ Well, thank you ...you've been a grand and devoted, loyal friend and I'll never forget you and I appreciate it.

SH I'll be that way right on, Lyndon. And may I say this, I'~~m~~ was expecting to support John..though there would have been some difficulties in connection with it..but insofar as you're concerned..there couldn't be any difficulties. You heard what I said at Orlando..I still feel that way.

LBJ Yes, I did. I know it..I need you more than ever and please come in and pick up that phone when you need to tell me what you think.

SH All right. And I'll be at my home in Bartow in the event this question moves in any unexpected direction ...otherwise so long as the check is made..my own personal approval is one hundred percent.

LBJ Thank you my friend.

SH OK. Bye.

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
SENATOR SPESSARD HOLLAND NOVEMBER 27, 1963

The President: "...I'm sorry to interrupt you but earlier in the day there were some suggestions from your state about naming Cape Canaveral Cape Kennedy...we checked it with the appropriate people in the Federal Government and that could be done..."

They then discussed the possibility of renaming both the town and Port Canaveral. Senator Holland said that the only drawback might be that the name goes back to historic times and that it should be checked with the County Commissioner of Titusville and with the Governor so they could feel they were being consulted.

Senator Holland then said: "I thought your message today was very fine...and I especially thought that your recognition of the Legislative Branch -- the words you used about it -- was splendid and I don't see how you could have done a better job. I've already made that comment to the press and I want to tell you personally to that effect."

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